

Expelling students for possessing knives

HB 289 by Willy/Brown

DIGEST:	HB 289 would have allowed a school district to expel or remove from class a student who possessed any kind of knife, regardless of size. (Current law allows removal or expulsion for possession of illegal knives, which include those with a blade over 5.5 inches long, throwing knives, daggers, bowie knives, swords and spears.)
GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:	"This bill is overly broad and punishes activity that may be innocuous." The governor said other remedies, such as alternative education programs, can be used to deal with the problem the bill sought to resolve. Local school boards can adopt rules to address such problems.
RESPONSE:	Rep. John Willy, author of HB 289, said the governor's veto was "totally unwarranted." He said, "I don't think they understood it. The bill was permissive, and school districts could formulate their own policy." "Every time there is a stabbing in a school, I'm going to send the newspaper article to the governor and ask if we couldn't have prevented it with this bill," said Rep. Willy.
NOTES:	HB 289 passed the House on the Consent Calendar and was not analyzed in a <i>Daily Floor Report</i> .